GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2236
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2017
Inflated Prices of Medical Devices
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some multi-national companies have withdrawn their stents/drug eluting stents from the Indian market;

(b) if so, the report of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) on price control and capping of prices of several medicines and stents for cardiovascular diseases and diabetes therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the inflated prices of the medical devices being sold in the open market thereof;

(d) if so, the legal provision of the Government therein; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to sell directly from the manufacturers through single window schemes, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) & (b): National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, had received discontinuation applications relating to specific stents from three companies on the grounds of 'commercial unviability post fixation of ceiling price'. The Government has, vide its order dated 21.02.2017, rejected their applications and invoking the powers under para 3 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, directed the companies to maintain uninterrupted supply of all coronary stents for six months from the date of the order. As far as Diabetes medicines are concerned, NPPA has capped the prices of 12 diabetes medicines so far.

(c) & (d): NPPA fixes the prices of drugs/devices included in Schedule I of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 after their notification under National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

Further, even in respect of non-scheduled medicines/devices, the annual increase in the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) cannot be more than 10% and where the increase is beyond ten percent of maximum retail price, the same shall be reduced to the level of ten percent of maximum retail price for next twelve months.

(e): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has started AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reasonable Implants for Treatment) stores where essential life saving medicines and implants including stents are being provided at a substantial discount vis-Ã -vis the Maximum Retail Price.